

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1756

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, EFIN, NATO

SUBJECT: BURDENSARING: QUESTIONS RAISED BY BELGIAN DELEGATION

REF: A) USNATO 986; B) USNATO 1657

1. THE TEXT OF A NOTE FROM THE BELGIAN DELEGATION (ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DE BROUWERE) FOLLOWS WHICH RAISES QUESTIONS REGARDING U.S. MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN NATO EUROPE. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT THE U.S. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TEAM, DURING ITS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO NATO, BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS RAISED, AS WELL AS THOSE POSED EARLIER BY THE DANISH AND U.K. DELS. (REFTELS).

2. BEGIN TEXT:

I. U.S. MILITARY, CIVILIANS AND DEPENDENTS

A. THE PROPORTION BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL LIVING IN BELGIUM AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL EXPENDITURES IS VERY HIGH COMPARED TO THE SOME PROPORTION FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THIS?

B. WHAT IS THE RESPECTIOVE PERCENTAGE OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL?

C. DO THE EXPENDITURES INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, THE COST OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SHAPE, THE MILITARY
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COMMITTEE, MAAG-BELUX?

THE EXPENSES OF THE HOSPITAL, THE SCHOOL?

D. WHAT METHOD IS USED IN ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTING FOR EXPENDITURES, I.E., ON THE BASIS OF WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE THE CALCULA-

TIONS ESTABLISHED?

E. IT IS REASONABLE TO RECKON WITH THE RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES OF A PERCENTAGE OF THE INCOME OF U.S. PERSONNEL, EITHER IN THE FORM OF PURCHASE OF GOODS OR OF MONETARY TRANSFERS. IS THIS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT?

F. MUST TRANSFERS OF FUNDS BE MADE THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS?

G. WOULD CERTAIN AMERICAN STORES, MESSES OR CANTEENS ACCEPT PAYMENTS IN BELGIAN FRANCS?

II. NATO INFRASTRUCTURE

DOES THE AMOUNT OF 57 MILLION DOLLARS REPRESENT THE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM IN RESPONSE TO THE CALLS FOR FUNDS MADE BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF?

III. PETROLEUM, OIL AND LUBRICANTS

FOR POL PRODUCTS, PART OF THE COST IS TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OWING TO THE FACT THAT THE ENSEMBLE OF THE PURCHASING OPERATIONS OF THE REFINERIES ARE NORMALLY EFFECTED IN U.S. DOLLARS. MOREOVER, THIS RULE APPLIES AS WELL TO THE PURCHASE OF POL PRODUCTS BY ALL OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENSE.

IV. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES, SERVICES, ALL OTHER PAYMENTS

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF THE OPERATIONS COVERED UNDER THESE DIFFERENT HEADINGS? WHAT METHODS ARE USED FOR ACQUIRING AND PAYING FOR THESE? RUMSFELD

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